

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus for recording and reproducing digital information comprising:

a Viterbi decoder which decodes a signal sequence obtained by partial response equalization and produces  $n$  candidates of a decoded result, the  $n$  candidates being a best candidate to an  $n$ th best candidate and being produced simultaneously by the Viterbi decoder; and

a selector which detects errors in the  $n$  candidates, and selects a candidate having no detected errors from the  $n$  candidates as a correct decoded result.

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